

Dr.Mangalore Gopal Kini: Reminiscences

By

Dr.Vissa Ramachandra Rao

(Article Prepared on 26th December 2013)

First Acquaintance

It was January 1939 when I was doing *Surgical Posting as a Final Year M.B.B.S. Student* of Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam, in the S II wards of **Dr.Mangalore Gopal Kini***, at King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam. During the rounds, one morning, Dr.Kini wanted to know if any of the final year students would like to help him at collecting some information from the hospital records for his forthcoming paper on *Peptic ulcer*. None of the senior final year students appearing for the Final Year Examination in April 1939 were keen on responding, and I volunteered as a *Junior Student taking the Final Year Examination of M.B.B.S. in December 1939*.



Dr.Mangalore Gopal Kini

Dr.Kini took me to the open rack of *bound records of ward case sheets*, and told me what information I had to pick up and how to record the finding for the analysis. He asked me to complete the task in 7 days. I started on the job immediately and completed it in four days. On the fifth day I presented the material along with tabular analytical statement to him at his residence in the evening. He was very much pleased and was surprised that I could do it so quickly and well. Later he asked me to collect some more information and analyse it. It went on like that from one task to another and my work was to his liking and satisfaction.

From Wikipedia:* **Mangalore Gopal Kini, better known as **M.G.Kini** M.C., [M.B.](#), [M.Ch.](#), [F.R.C.S.](#) was a famous [Orthopaedic Surgeon](#) of [India](#). He was considered by the Indian Orthopaedic surgical community as the forerunner of Orthopaedic Surgery in India.^[1] "Kini Memorial Oration" was held by [Indian Orthopaedic Association](#) (IOA) every year since 1958. He laid the foundation stone for Orthopaedics department in [Andhra Medical College](#) in 1954. ^[1] <http://www.orthopaedicseminar.com/Indian-Orthopaedic-Association-IOA.aspx>

In a month's time the *paper was ready*. One Evening, Dr.Kini sprang a surprise on me, that he was putting my name as a co-author for the paper entitled: **Some Observations on Gastric and Duodenal Ulcers in Northern Circars**. Even though I protested that I did not deserve the distinction as I was only a student and that the help rendered was mostly analytical. Dr.Kini insisted on the inclusion. Further, he observed, that on earlier occasions, he has included **Dr.Venkoba Rao**, House surgeon and **Dr.M.N.Rao**, a Research Assistant on Nutritional Studies, *as co-authors to two different papers*, in recognition of the help they rendered. Moreover, he observed that on several occasions *Clinical year students* co-authored Workers on Scientific Papers as Best with **Banting** on **Studies on Insulin** and **Jenner** on **Visual Stria**, and that *work of merit should not go unrecognised but due credit given for help rendered. It is clearly evident how truly large hearted he was in recognising the spark of merit and give due encouragement as a true scientist would!*

Turning Point

One evening on my visit to Dr.Kini at his residence he was surprised to discover that I was son of his good friend **Professor Vissa Appa Rao**, Principal of the Andhra University Colleges, Waltair. He accused my Father for appraising him that his (Appa Rao's) son was helping him (Dr.Kini) on his paper though they were playing tennis together at the Visakhapatnam Century Club every evening. As a compensation for the lapse he took a promise from Prof. Appa Rao that he would let Ramachandra Rao work with him for three years, so that he could train him in **Experimental and Clinical Surgery**. That was how I came to be attached to Dr.Kini at **Madras Stanley Hospital**, First as a Senior Houseman and later on as an Honorary House Surgeon *during the years – 1940-1945*. I was put on a **Pilot Study of Infections of the Foot**. It was the Subject Matter of an Essay which was to be submitted to **Association of Surgeons of India** in response to their *Announcement for Award of a Prize for the best Essay on the Topic from Medical Graduates of less than Ten Years of studies*. Dr.Kini's guidance was critical and helpful in that My Essay was adjudged, by a *Panel of Senior Surgeons*, as fit to receive the award. A cheque for Rs.150 was presented to me at the Annual Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India held at Mysore in 1945. With that as a basis Dr.Kini could get the Sanction of Finance for the conduct of an **Enquiry into the Infections of the Foot** under the auspices of the **Indian Research Fund Association**, which after Independence in 1947, had become the **Indian Council of Medical Research**.

Research Project at Stanley Hospital

It was my privilege to have been selected as Research Assistant in the Enquiry conducted at the Madras Stanley Hospital, with Dr.Kini as the Director of Enquiry for period of 21 months, 1946-1948. As the Superintendent of the Hospital, Dr.Kini had a

Foot Clinic opened with orders that All Cases of Infections and Injuries of the Foot be referred to also appointed to the Enquiry. I could get a lot of Clinical Material, which on Analysis was the basis of a Research Paper on **Tropical Ulcers in Madras City** under the Joint Authorship of **Dr.V.R.Rao, Dr.M.G.Kini and Ananthakrishnan** (*Clinical Assistant*) and was published in the **Indian Medical Gazette**. Also a part of the work done under the Enquiry served as a basis for submission of my Thesis for the award of **M.Sc.(Anatomy, Medical)** by Research, of **Andhra University** in the year - 1949.

The entire **Report of the Findings on the Enquiry into the Infections of the Foot** was submitted to the Indian Research Fund Association in 5 Parts. Later it was published as Memoir No.37 of the Indian Council of Medical Research in March 1951, under the Joint Authorship of Dr.V.Ramachandra Rao and Dr.M.G.Kini. It was on the insistence of Dr.Kini that my name was put as the First Author in Recognition of the hard work done by me (much to the dismay and displeasure of the Authorities of ICMR).

Scientific Enquiry and Critical Analysis

Dr.Kini always felt that since the statements and observations in Text Books written by the Continental and other Authors were based on the material available outside India and were not reflecting the Indian conditions, they should not be taken as gospel truths. *One should have an open mind and base one's experience on material available in India and in the subcontinent where one works. He maintained with great care the Findings of Clinical Material from his Wards, Outdoor Department and Consultations. He would meticulously have a Follow-up to note the Progress, accurately. All his Clinical Notes and Research Papers were based on such material. He would compare the Findings from his Data with those of the Textbooks and Research Papers from Other Countries and Regions.*

In recognition of the contributions made in the write up of an article on **Acute Abdomen in general and Appendicitis in particular** was published in

the **Journal of Indian Medical Association, 1950**, my name was included as co-author of the paper.

Strict Disciplinarian

Dr.Kini, the Scientist and Surgeon, was very strict. To maintain Discipline among his Associates and Assistants, he would tolerate nothing short of Excellence and Superlative in their Efforts. Even a Senior Assistant of his Team would run through his criticism, when he answered that he would do his best, pat would come the retort from Dr.Kini “Your best may be nothing to me Mister”. He would address his Colleagues, Assistants and House men as ‘Mister’, a practice in vogue with the British Surgeons. Equally endearing was the term of address to his students and the housemen as ‘Sony’ and ‘Mammosel’.

Unfortunately Dr.Kini was of short temper and would shout at Nurses and Assistants if they fell short of his expectations or committed any mistakes. And most surprising was that – at the end of a ‘heavy’ day he would call his assistants and say, “*I am sorry Mister that I shouted too much at you today*”, or “*Please Excuse Me*” or “*I Excuse You*”. He would insist on the Assistant saying “*I Excuse you, Sir*” and not leave him otherwise. He would add that he will not be able to sleep at night if the assistant did not excuse him for his short temper.

Many Good Qualities

Dr.Kini had *many Good Qualities of Head and Heart*. Staff nurses shuddered to assist him as Operation Theatre Staff as he would lose temper and shout at their shortcomings. Also he was *exacting on the work Schedule*. He was too aware of it all, and would *compensate on occasions by giving them (lavish) presents as rewards for Endurance and Devotion to work*.

‘Work was Worship’ to Dr.Kini. His *care for his patients was something unique*. He would even forego his lunch while attending to them. He remembered every patient inclusive of minor details as to the bed he occupied in the ward and would identify him when he revisited for a check-up or report.

Specialisation in Orthopaedic Surgery

Dr.Kini has specialised in *Orthopaedic Surgery* with a M.Ch. from Liverpool and F.R.C.P.S. from U.K. As there was no separate post of Orthopaedic Surgeon in any of the Collegiate Hospitals in the State of Madras

Presidency except in the Government General Hospital, Madras, he was to be head of a general surgical unit at the King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam and later at the Government Stanley Hospital, Madras. *Dr.Kini was very methodical in his Surgical Craftsmanship. He chose to do Gastriectomy in a low risk patient under local anaesthesia ½ % procaine solution.* To several groups of visiting enthusiastic surgeons he had *demonstrated how well the stomach could be mobilised with procaine.* It may be remembered in his connection that **Dr.Kini served as an Anaesthetist for three years to the Surgeon Col.Bradfield in the General Hospital in the late twenties, before going abroad on a Fellowship work.**

Student Welfare

Dr.Kini was very much interested in student welfare. *He was guiding them in their extra-curricular activities, sports in particular.* He picked up a great liking for my class mate *P.Narayana Rao, a champion athlete throughout the course. Narayana Rao also won the Gold medal in Clinical Surgery in the Final Year.* Narayana Rao and I were posted together as House Surgeons by the Resident Medical Officer for a Term to work in Dr.Kini's Surgical Unit at the behest of the Surgeon. However, Narayana Rao did not complete the term as he joined the Short Service Commission as an Officer in the *Armed Forces Medical Corps.* He was an *Lt.Colonel* at the time of discharge from *the Armed Forces Medical Corps.*

Team Spirit

Dr.Kini inculcated a Team Spirit among the Workers in the Operation Theatres, Wards and the Outdoor Departments. Every one of us understood that we were worth something in the Team, but were worth nothing if let alone. Each respected the other members of the team for the Success of our Efforts at getting Relief and Cure for the Patients. In the Operation Theatre, the Staff Nurse was the Queen of the Show and Dr.Chalapathi Naidu was the Chief Lieutenant. The Anaesthetist had always had his due regard from other members of the team, while all were subservient with love and devotion to the boss and Director, Dr.Kini.

Many of us who worked with him for long number of years, were all aware of the excellence in his work, the true scientific spirit and his originality. We did not mind his short temper. *All of us from the 1942-48 batch of Assistants# have*

prospered in the long run. Memories of our Association with Dr.M.G.Kini, the Surgeon Specialist, Scientist and Humanist are always Green.

After the **Retirement from Service of Dr.M.G.Kini in 1948**, I got Selected as a Civil Assistant Surgeon and posted as a Tutor in Anatomy, to the Guntur Medical College. I hesitated for a while and gave a telegram to Dr.Kini, who was at Bombay then, seeking is Advice and Help. He encouraged me to take up Anatomy as a career, with a reply “Don’t be a Fool, Stick to Anatomy”.

#1942-48 Batch of Assistants in the Surgical Unit of Dr.M.G.Kini at the Government Stanley Medical Hospital, Madras:

(Dr.I.Chalapathi

Naidu, Dr.K.Ramesh Pai, Dr.Vissa Ramachandra Rao, Dr.C.Vyaghreswarudu, Dr.P.K.Devi, Dr.K.Ramachandran, Dr.Panduranga Pai, Dr.Y.V.Subba Rao, Dr.Kanakadurgamba, Dr.A.Janaka Mohana Rao, Dr.A.Ramachandra Rao, Dr.C.E.Rama Rao, Dr.B.Rajagopalan, Dr.D.Ramachandradas, and Dr.Ratnakarbaliga)

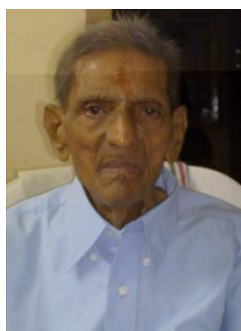
Who is who of the above Batch# (with the Number of Years of Total Work Period with Dr.M.G.Kini indicated in Brackets) # **(Prepared in 2003)**

- A. Assistant of Dr.Kini who was his Undergraduate Student at the Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam (1937)
 1. Dr.K.Ramachandran (6 years), M.S.(Worked as Anaesthetist for 5 years at the Stanley Hospital; Surgical Registrar, Stanley Medical College for 2 years; Surgeon and Director, Horsley Nursing Home, Madurai)
- B. Assistants of Dr.Kini who were all his Undergraduate Students at the Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam(1939-40 Batch)
 1. Dr. I.Chalapathi Naidu (7 years), M.S. (In later years worked as Principal and Professor of Surgery at Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad and Guntur Medical College)
 2. Dr.Vissa Ramachandra Rao (6 years), M.B.B.S., M.Sc., MNAMS,FIMSA (With the Andhra Pradesh Medical Services 1948-1972: Principal and Professor of Anatomy at Guntur Medical College, Ranga Raya Medical College, Kakinada, and S.V.Medical College, Tirupati; In later years worked as: Professor of Anatomy, Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal for one year, Professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy, M.R.Medical College, Gulbarga for 10 years; Professor Emeritus of Anatomy, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, R.M.Medical College, Annamalai University for 3 years)
 3. Dr.C.Vyaghreswarudu (5 years), M.S., M.S. (Orthopaedics), FICS, FACS, D.Sc. (Hony. from Andhra University), WHO Fellow on Poliomyelitis to USA (worked as Professor of Orthopaedics, Andhra Medical College, and Hony. Director, Rehabilitation and Artificial Limb Centre, Tirupati; Also Authored "Text book of Principles and Practice of Orthopaedics")
 4. Dr.A.Ramachandra Rao (2 years), M.B.B.S., B.S.Sc. [In later years worked as Chief Medical Officer(Health) Municipal Corporation of Madras, and WHO Adviser and Expert on Cholera]

5. Dr.A.Janaka Mohana Rao (2 years), M.B.B.S. (*In later years worked as District Medical Officer, Andhra Pradesh Medical Services*)
 6. Dr.C.E.Rama Rao (2 years), M.B.B.S., D.O.M.S. (*In later years worked as Ophthalmic Surgeon, G.T.Madras.*)
 7. Lieutenant Col. Dr.P.Narayana Rao (1 year), M.D. (Physician and Superintendent, Government Hospital, Kakinada)
 - C. Assistant of Dr.Kini who Graduated from Madras Medical College (1942-43)
 1. Dr.K.Ramesh Pai (5 years), M.S.,FRCS(England) (*In later years worked as Prof. of Surgery, Director of Medical and Health Services, Andhra Pradesh*)
 - D. Assistant of Dr.Kini who was his Undergraduate Student at the Stanley Medical College, Madras(3rd Batch, 1935)
 1. Dr.M.P.Pai (2 years), M.S., FRCS (Professor of Surgery and Principal, Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore)
 - E. Assistants of Dr.Kini who Graduated from Madras Medical College (1939-40 Batch)
 1. Dr.P.K.Devi (2 years), M.S., W.M.S. Women's Medical and Health Services
 2. Dr.Y.V.Subba Rao (2 years), M.S., FICCS (*In later years worked as General Surgeon and Plastic Surgeon, Government Hospital, Guntur*)
 3. Dr.Kanakadurgamba (2 years), M.D., D.G.O. (*In later years worked as Deputy Secretary, Health, Government of Andhra Pradesh*)
-

References:

1. M.G. Kini and V. Ramachandra Rao (1940) - Some Observations on Gastric and Duodenal Ulcers in Northern Circars: The Antiseptic Vol.38.
2. V.R.Rao (1944) – Acute Abdomen: Journal of Infections of the Stanley Medical College Vol. 6. No.1.
3. V.Ramachandra Rao (1945) - Pilot Study of the Foot: *Adjudged as Best Essay on the Topic from Medical Graduates of less than Ten Years of studies presented at the Annual Conference of Association of Surgeons of India held at Mysore'.*
4. V.R.Rao (1946) - Infections of the Foot: Indian Journal of Surgery Vol.2.
5. V.R.Rao, M.G.Kini and Ananthakrishnan (1949) - Tropical Ulcers in Madras City: Indian Medical Gazette Vol.84.
6. M.G. Kini, V. Ramachandra Rao and A.R.Rao (1950-1951) – The Problem of the Acute Abdomen and Appendicitis in Particular: Journal of the Indian Medical Association 12/1950; 20(2):33-9.
7. V.R.Rao and M.G. Kini (1951). "Infections of the Foot: an Anatomical and Experimental Study of Fascial Spaces and Tendon Sheaths with Clinical Correlation of Certain Types of Infections of the Foot": The Indian Journal of Medical Research 37: 1–115. [PMID 13117535](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/13117535/).
8. M.G.Kini in en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M.G.Kini
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M. G. Kini](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M._G._Kini)



Dr.V.R.Rao

(21st March 1917 – 27th June 2014)

BIODATA OF Dr.V.R.RAO

Dr.Vissa Ramachandra Rao is an Eminent Educationist in the Medical Field and also a Yoga Follower. He was born on 21st March 1917 at Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh. He is the Eldest Son of Professor Vissa Appa Rao (1884-1966) who was an Eminent Educationist, Physicist, Musicologist and Promoter of Music and Fine Arts in South India.

Dr.Ramachandra Rao, after his high school and Intermediate education at Chennai, qualified for M.B.B.S. from Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, in 1940. He started his Medical Career at the Stanley Hospital, Chennai as an Assistant Surgeon and on ICMR Fellowship, during 1940- 1948 worked on Infections of Foot, for his M.Sc. in Anatomy, under the Guidance of Dr.M.G.Kini, an Eminent Orthopaedic Surgeon and Prof. A. Ananthnarayana Ayyar, Professor and Head, Department of Anatomy, Madras Medical College.

He started his Teaching Career as Assistant Lecturer in the Subject of Anatomy at the Guntur Medical College in 1948. As a Professor of Anatomy he worked during the Years 1951-1973 at the Government Medical Colleges of Guntur, Visakhapatnam, and Tirupati and the then Private Medical College- Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada. He also worked as Principal of the Government Medical College at Guntur (1960-1962), Principal and Secretary of the Governing Body of Rangaraya Medical College at Kakinada (1963-1966) and as Principal of the S.V.Medical College at Tirupati (1966-1972).

After Retirement from the Andhra Pradesh Medical Services he served as Additional Professor of Anatomy at M.G.Medical College, Warangal during 1972-1973 and as Professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy at the M.R.Medical College, Gulbarga (Karnataka) during 1973-1985. During the years 1986-1989 he worked as Emeritus Professor of Anatomy at the R.M.Medical College, Annamalai University, Chidambaram (Tamilnadu).

While working at Guntur Medical College Dr.Ramachandra Rao along with his junior colleague Dr.G.R.K.Hari Rao (1919-2006) identified a New Artery in the Human Heart System and Published the Discovery as 'Rao and Rao Artery', which received the attention of International Medical Community. Dr.Rao also published Papers and Lectured on his Favourite Subjects 'History of Medicine' and 'Human Evolution'. After the Demise of the well-known International Geneticist Dr.J.B.S.Haldane (1892-1964), at the request of his wife Mrs. Haldane, Dr.Ramachandra Rao arranged for the Preservation of the Brain and Human Body Skeletal Structure of Dr.Haldane at the Anatomy Museum of Kakinada Medical College

(1964). Sponsored by the Government of India, Dr. Ramachandra Rao received training in the Teaching of Anatomy and Histology at the School of Anatomy, Cambridge University, U.K. during 1958-1959.

Dr. Ramachandra Rao is a Life Member of Anatomical Society of India, Member, Association of Medical Sciences and Fellow of the International Medical Sciences Association and Life Member of the Indian Society of Health Administrators. He also worked on the Expert Committees of the Indian Medical Council visiting many Medical Colleges of India. In his Four Decades Career in the field of Medical Education, Prof. Ramachandra Rao promoted fervently the Sports, Arts and Culture among the Students and the Public.

As an active Rotarian holding important portfolios, his role in Community Service, Club service and International Service of the Rotary Clubs was acclaimed by the Public at Tirupati, Warangal and Gulbarga. Many of his Students Served and Occupied High Positions in the various Medical Colleges and Several Government and Corporate Hospitals in India, U.S.A. and U.K. Several of his students are running their own Hospitals and Community Service Institutions in various parts of South India.

At the initiative of Dr. Vissa Ramachandra Rao In 1984, the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Prof. Vissa Appa Rao were organized in befitting manner by prominent students, contemporary scholars and leaders from different sections of the society and a souvenir 'Archana' containing these contributions was also published.

Dr. Ramachandra Rao is the eldest son-in-law of Gurudev Sri Veturi Prabhakara Sastri (1888-1950), an Eminent Telugu Literary Critic, Epigraphist and Orientalist of South India. As an Organizing Committee Member of Veturi Prabhakara Sastri Memorial Trust, he also served on the Editorial Committee of Manimanjari Periodical of the Trust (www.archive.org/stream/manimanjari). As an ardent Follower and Practitioner of Bhrikta Rahita Taraka Raja Yoga of Master CVV (1868-1922), Kumbakonam, he recorded Several Case Histories of People Suffering from Chronic and Terminal Diseases being Treated and Cured by Sri Veturi Prabhakara Sastri through the Practice of Master C.V.V. Yoga at Chennai and Tirupati. After his Long and Illustrious Public Service Dr. Ramachandra Rao settled down in 1990 at Salem, Tamilnadu where several Educational Institutions and Hospitals were flourishing. In a Public Function held on 1st April 2012 at Salem, Dr. Ramachandra Rao was honoured by Sri Veturi Prabhakara Sastri Vangmaya Peetham of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, Tirupati. Many of the Former Students of Dr. Rao, the Elite and Educationists of Salem and many Relatives and Family Members attended the Function.

Dr. Ramachandra Rao's Physical Disappearance (Niryanam) was at an age of 97 years and three months on the evening of 27th June 2014 at Salem.

